

SECRET
SECRET

50X1-HUM

The necessary reserves of manganese ore, coal, sand, refractory clays, and other materials are being built up so slowly that it is apparent that the plant is making no better preparations for winter than it did last year. The lack of effort on the part of the plant party committee and Konovalenko, its secretary, to encourage enthusiasm for winter preparations is also one of the reasons for the slowdown of this work. The party organization must take full control of all problems connected with readying the plant for winter.

Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 18 Aug 50

The Plant imeni Petrovskiy has not learned the lessons of last winter. The plant has not started to build up reserves of ore, limestone, and fuel and has not started construction of the thawing installations for incoming railroad cars loaded with ore. The Dnepropetrovsk Oblast Party Committee is doing nothing to cope with the unsatisfactory conditions at the plant.

Ukrainian metallurgists have been called upon to make up in the next few months the lag which occurred in the first quarter 1950. This cannot be accomplished without immediate preparations for winter.

FERROALLOY PLANT TAKES MEASURES -- Alma-Ata, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, 21 Sep 50

The Aktyubinsk Ferroalloy Plant has been making preparations for the coming winter ever since last spring. The metallurgists will attempt to increase the output rate during this coming winter. Capital and medium repairs of locomotives are already under way and proceeding according to schedule in an effort to avoid last winter's mistakes. Workers in the power shop are readying the water-pumping station, water pipe line, transformers, and the TETs (Heat and Power Plant). The volume of capital construction on power equipment this year far exceeds that of previous years. In addition, roofs are being repaired in the main shops and the production areas, and workers' quarters are being insulated. An enclosed waiting room at the suburban train stop is being built across from the plant administration building, near the railroad siding.

In previous years, the plant could not meet the first-quarter plans because of interruptions in the coal supply. This year, however, the plant has taken measures to prevent such interruptions, and is already fully supplied with winter reserves of fuel, ore, limestone, and other materials.

The plant, however, has a number of just and serious complaints against the "Aktyubstroy" Trust, which is delaying completion of a number of projects needed for normal winter operation. The trust has many times exceeded the time limit for completing a covered coal-storage area. The coal supplies now are unloaded anywhere on the plant territory, necessitating additional transport of fuel to the receiving bunkers. In addition, the heat value of the coal diminishes when it is left out in the open. Gul'ko director of the trust, does not seem to be concerned about the lag. Another project which the trust is not completing on schedule is the heating duct from the TETs which will heat individual houses in the small workers' city. The successful fulfillment of the ferroalloy plant's winter work depends for the most part on the "Aktyubstroy" Trust.

Major and medium repairs in workers' quarters are being completed. The central heating system in many buildings has been reinspected. This fall, 70 individual homes have been built for workers, in addition to two 12-apartment houses and six 1-apartment houses, with two 18-apartment houses scheduled for completion in the immediate future.

- 2 -

SECRET
SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

50X1-HUM

Some of the plant's shops, however, have not yet been made ready. The heating system in the building which houses the auxiliary shops was not in good condition last winter and repair is being delayed again this year. Very little molding sand, necessary for the casting wing, is being brought in and repair of machine tool equipment is going slowly.

URAL CHARCOAL PRODUCTION NEEDS REVAMPING -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 29 Sep 50

At present, the charcoal-based metallurgical plants in the USSR have been radically rebuilt and have become enterprises operating on a high technological level. Charcoal production in the Urals, however, has remained in the primitive stage. Outmoded, primitive furnaces, built even before the last century, are in operation and no by-products of charcoal production, such as acids, alcohol, ether, and tars, are ever recovered. The coal used in these furnaces is of low quality and the process requires a tremendous expense of hand labor.

One attempt has been made to end the use of these outdated practices. A new, continuously operating charcoal furnace, designed by Professor Kozlov, was built in Verkhnyaya Sinyachikha, Sverdlovsk Oblast. The furnace is completely mechanized, gives a high yield of good-quality chemical products, and its charcoal is uniform in content and mechanical properties and has a high weight by volume.

Despite the fact that the cost of one ton of charcoal is somewhat higher than one ton of coke, only one of these new furnaces is now in operation (the plan called for five) and its wood supplies are irregular. With a second furnace in operation, the cost of charcoal would be no higher than coke, and with all five of the planned furnaces, the cost would be considerably lower than coke.

It would seem that the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry USSR would have given attention to the necessity of a basic reconstruction of Ural charcoal production. However, the primitive methods of production are still being used, even in such extensive regions as Serov, Chusovoy, and Beloretsk. Here, too, the valuable by-products are being wasted and the furnaces are charged and emptied by hand.

By 1 January 1950, a second Kozlov charcoal furnace was to have been put into operation in Verkhnyaya Sinyachikha, but so far, only the foundation has been built. The orders for the equipment for the furnace were given to plants of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry -- the Serov Plant, Alapayevsk Plant, and the Nizhniy Tagil Plant imeni Kuybyshev. However, these orders have not been fulfilled and the time limit has long been exceeded. The Alapayevsk Plant and the Plant imeni Kuybyshev have already consumed the metal reserves set aside for production of this equipment.

The decree of the Eighteenth Party Congress indicated the necessity of extensively developing the smelting of charcoal pig irons from ores free of sulfur and phosphorus. The demand for quality charcoal-produced metal is considerably increasing as a result of the growth of the new branches of the apparatus- and instrument-building industries. -- G. Ryzhkov, Director, Ural Timber Engineering Institute, Sverdlovsk

- E N D -

- 3 -

SECRET

SECRET